BRITISH COLUMBIA

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highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

Immigration

- **Immigration to British Columbia was up 1.5% to 25,190 in the first half of 1997 compared to the same period last year**. Nationally, the number of immigrants declined 4.8% to 105,906.

  BC was the second most popular destination of all provinces for Canadian immigrants. During the first half of 1997, 53.6% of all Canadian immigrants landed in Ontario, 23.8% arrived in BC, 11.5% in Quebec, and the remaining 11.1% in the rest of Canada. In addition, almost one third of entrepreneur immigrants chose BC as a destination.

  Source: BC STATS

The Census

- **Married couple families still constitute the majority of family types, however the strongest growth was in lone-parent families**. The breakdown of family structure was husband-wife at 76% (down from 78% in 1991), common-law at 10% (unchanged) and lone-parent at 14% (up from 12%). Common-law couples, two people of the opposite sex living together as husband and wife, were more prevalent in other provinces. The Northwest Territories, reported 27% of all families in common-law unions, followed by the Yukon (23%) and Quebec (21%). The 1996 Census found slightly over one million families with never-married children at home.

  Source: Statistics Canada

- **In British Columbia, one in five children lived with a lone parent in 1996**. Between 1996 and 1991 the number of children increased 19% to 218,265, up from 17% (166,595 children). Of lone-parent families, four out of five children (84.1%) live with a female parent (83.4% in 1991). The number of children living with a male parent has remained relatively stable, 15.9% in 1996 compared to 16.6% in 1991.

  Source: Statistics Canada

- **In 1996, the number of people living in common-law unions totalled 205,765 in British Columbia**. Sixty percent living in this arrangement had never been married, divorced individuals made up 30% and 7% were separated. Common-law unions were slightly higher for the 15-34 age group (101,360), than the 35-59 age group (93,230). In the sixty year and over catagory 11,180 were reported.

  Source: Statistics Canada

- **One in eight single family dwellings in British Columbia was occupied by one person**. One in three single family dwellings contained two people. The average number of persons per private household in 1996 was 2.6. In three decades, the average had declined from 3.7. *Source: Statistics Canada*

Waste Management

- **Disposal of waste in landfills and incinerators amounted to 2.8 million tonnes in British Columbia in 1994.** Per capita, that equalled 0.76 tonnes compared with a national average of 0.73 tonnes. The highest per capita waste disposal was in Saskatchewan at 0.91 tonnes followed by the other prairie provinces and Newfoundland. Lowest amounts were recorded by Ontario (0.67 tonnes) and Quebec (0.71 tonnes).

Report **Trade with APEC economies**

Did you know...?
More than 3% of British Columbians have participated in yoga or tai-chi, double the national rate.

Estimated operating expenditures of municipal and other governments for the collection and transport of waste, disposal facilities, recycling and other waste management were $165.8 million in BC. Twenty percent of this amount was spent as payments to contracted waste management firms for services rendered, and the balance to programs delivered by governments' own employees. Nationwide, 50% of expenditures went to contracted services. The highest rate of contracting out was in Quebec (81%). *Source: Statistics Canada*

Education

- **British Columbia enrolment in university continuing education courses continued to climb in 1995/96.** Nationally, enrolment has declined over the last two years while in BC it increased 7%. Of the 78,000 students enrolled in BC, 22% were in business and commerce programs—a share similar to the country overall. Computing and information systems with 6,000 enrolled, showed a 31% increase in the last two years. *Source: SC, Education Quarterly Review, Fall 1997*

Travel

- **Passenger traffic through Vancouver International Airport was 4.0% higher in August than in the same month last year**. Transborder passengers increased 7.8% (427,199) followed by domestic 3.3% (862,960), and international 1.5% (370,909). Of all services, charter flights increased the most (19.9%) relative to scheduled flights (2.3%).
  Source: Vancouver International Airport

- **Vehicle and passenger traffic on BC ferries were down marginally for most routes**. The Mill Bay route showed the greatest decline from the previous September, down 47% for vehicles and 44% for passengers. The only routes to show an increase were the Crofton to Vesuvius Bay (5.4% for vehicles and 2.7% for passengers) and the Beaver Cove to Prince Rupert route (30.8% vehicle and 28.4% passenger). *Source: BC Ferries*

- **The number of international visitors entering BC directly in the first 8 months of this year was up 5.1% from 1996.** Visits by US residents, comprising 80% of the total, increased 5.7%, while visits from other countries were up 2.1%.

  About half of US visits to BC were same day excursions, (up 8.3%) and by far the most popular means of travel was by automobile. However, almost 182,000 persons arrived by commercial boat in the first eight months, an increase of 18% over last year. Commercial plane was the choice of another 67,000 visitors (up 7%), while train brought only 1,500 (up 10%). More than 60,000 people walked across the border, while the balance arrived by private boat, plane, and other means.
  Source: Statistics Canada

- **Canadians have traditionally had a travel deficit.** They spend more money travelling outside the country than travellers visiting Canada. Before 1986, the travel deficit increased slowly. By 1992, as a result of increased travel to the US, the deficit ballooned to $6.4 billion. With the onset of a weak Canadian dollar, travel outside the country has been less affordable. As a resultthe travel deficit has declined to $3 billion in 1996. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **In 1996, Canadian's perferred overseas travel destination was Europe**. Stays of one or more nights totalled 2.6 million, with the UK representing 28% of those visits, followed by France 16%, and Germany 9%. On average, Canadians stayed 18.9 nights and spent $1,400 on overseas trips. In comparison, travel to the US accounted for 15.3 million visits. Within the US, 82% of the visits were made to border states. *Source: Statistics Canada*

Agriculture

- **Overall costs to farm operators in British Columbia increased 4.2% in the second quarter 1997**. The cost of hired farm labour (up 16.5%) was the biggest contributor to the increase followed by the cost of animal production (up 3.3%). This was offset by minor or negative changes in the cost of machinery and vehicles, interest, crop production and supplies and services. *Source: Statistics Canada*

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For data originating from Statistics Canada: data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the publication name or catalogue number.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS
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Release: October 1997

Statistical Summary of British Columbia and Canadian Trade with APEC Economies

APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) is a consultative forum of 18 international members bordering on the Pacific Rim. Membership as of October 1997 includes: Australia; Brunei Darusallam; Canada; Chile; China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; and the United States.

The attached statistical tables for trade with APEC economies offer data for Canadian exports and imports to and from APEC destinations. For British Columbia, only export numbers are available. This is because it is not generally possible to accurately identify the province of ultimate destination of imports entering Canada.

Additional statistics are available on trade, tourism, immigration patterns, and many other aspects of the British Columbia economy from:

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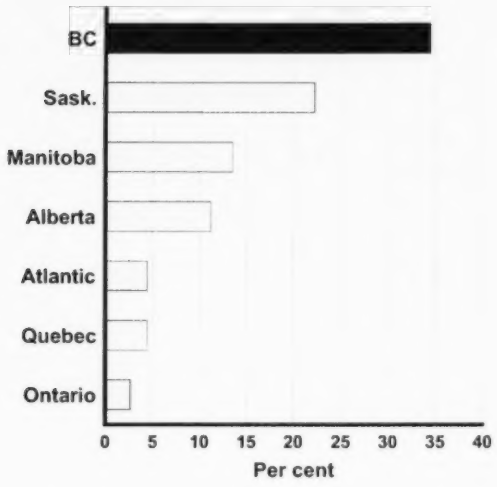
Highlights

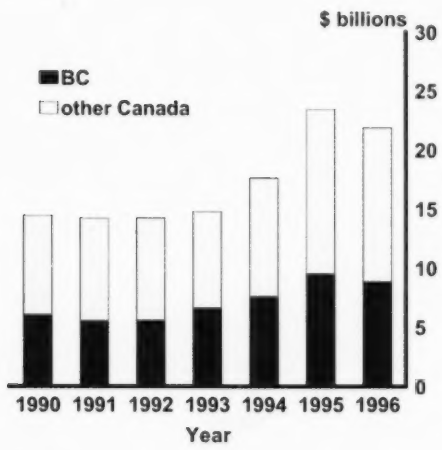
- APEC has particular significance for British Columbia as an organization promoting trade with Pacific Asia. Together the countries in this region have already become the province's most important trading market after the United States, and hold the most promise for expanding trade in the future.
- British Columbia is well established as Canada's strongest Pacific trader, producing 42 per cent of Canadian exports to Asian members of APEC.
- British Columbia shipped $6,346 million of goods to Japan in 1996, 25 per cent of its total exports. Exports to China (with Hong Kong) and to South Korea each accounted for three per cent. South East Asian members of APEC together accounted for two per cent of total British Columbia exports. Taken together, Asian APEC members purchased $8,859 million of British Columbia exports in 1996—35 per cent of the total.

Percentage of Exports to Asian APEC by Province — 1996



BC Stats

Exports to Asian Members of APEC



BC Stats

million in 1996. Over half of this (51.8 per cent) was in pulp and paper products. Machinery and equipment was the next largest category, accounting for 11.2 per cent.

- Exports to Japan were mainly concentrated in lumber and other solid wood products. These accounted for 45.5 per cent of the total to Japan in 1996. Pulp and paper products accounted for another 11.9 per cent; metallic mineral products accounted for 13.5 per cent; and coal accounted for another 17.8 per cent.

- Coal was also an important component of the $866 million of British Columbia exports to South Korea in 1996, accounting for 33.0 per cent. Metallic minerals accounted for 22.8 per cent and pulp and paper products accounted for 27.7 per cent.

- The South East Asian members of APEC were the destination for $525 million of British Columbia exports in 1996. Much of this (43.5 per cent) was concentrated in pulp and paper products. Another 19.0 per cent was in metallic mineral products and 23.4 per cent was machinery and equipment.

- British Columbia exports to China (with Hong Kong included) amounted to $770

British Columbia Exports to APEC * Economies

($,000,000 Cdn.)

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
United States	6,979.8	6,617.9	7,993.2	10,061.0	12,354.6	13,293.3	13,881.3
China	290.6	323.0	369.5	433.4	496.7	770.0	770.0
of which Hong Kong	90.7	94.1	125.3	149.1	191.5	270.6	258.3
Malaysia	25.0	31.1	24.4	28.1	33.2	65.2	71.8
Brunei Darussalam	0.1	2.0	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.8	0.6
Singapore	43.5	38.0	45.8	69.1	40.0	51.2	67.7
Indonesia	52.4	73.4	74.8	75.3	92.3	173.4	186.3
Japan	4,635.7	4,046.0	4,133.1	4,946.5	5,657.9	6,767.5	6,345.7
Korea, South	609.1	631.6	508.8	580.9	738.5	982.0	865.5
Philippines	54.0	77.2	81.0	73.9	95.4	105.2	92.0
Chinese Taipei	240.0	262.5	265.0	347.3	360.9	482.2	352.2
Thailand	107.4	62.3	91.3	75.6	90.7	126.3	106.7
Papua New Guinea	13.7	7.3	3.3	3.5	1.2	3.3	1.0
Australia	271.4	224.3	221.7	224.1	261.8	298.4	243.7
New Zealand	42.2	24.1	21.9	29.5	26.2	38.6	58.3
Chile	56.2	47.4	18.4	40.7	69.2	86.1	61.2
Mexico	34.2	28.0	45.5	47.1	76.8	53.8	48.7
Total APEC	13,455.2	12,496.1	13,898.4	17,036.5	20,395.8	23,297.3	23,152.5

Per Cent of total British Columbia Exports to APEC

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
United States	51.9	53.0	57.5	59.1	60.6	57.1	60.0
China	2.2	2.6	2.7	2.5	2.4	3.3	3.3
(Hong Kong, China)	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.2	1.1
Malaysia	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
Brunei Darussalam	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Singapore	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3
Indonesia	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.8
Japan	34.5	32.4	29.7	29.0	27.7	29.0	27.4
Korea, South	4.5	5.1	3.7	3.4	3.6	4.2	3.7
Philippines	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4
Chinese Taipei	1.8	2.1	1.9	2.0	1.8	2.1	1.5
Thailand	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5
Papua New Guinea	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Australia	2.0	1.8	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.1
New Zealand	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3
Chile	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3
Mexico	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2
Total APEC	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

*** Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation**

British Columbia Exports As Per Cent of Total Canadian Exports to APEC * Economies

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
United States	6.6	6.4	6.7	7.1	7.1	6.8	6.6
China	12.6	12.1	12.8	20.2	16.4	16.5	19.5
(Hong Kong, China)	13.7	11.7	16.5	24.1	21.2	19.6	22.9
Malaysia	10.0	10.7	10.5	13.6	12.3	12.2	14.1
Brunei Darussalam	22.9	83.5	55.6	34.5	13.8	18.6	6.8
Singapore	11.4	10.6	14.3	21.4	11.0	10.6	12.6
Indonesia	17.0	21.4	17.3	16.5	20.5	28.0	20.7
Japan	56.6	56.8	55.5	58.7	59.2	56.9	57.6
Korea, South	39.5	33.9	36.1	34.1	34.0	36.4	31.2
Philippines	26.4	40.6	38.9	38.2	49.3	32.4	32.2
Chinese Taipei	30.3	25.0	27.8	34.6	30.1	28.6	25.7
Thailand	21.7	17.7	27.9	21.1	22.8	22.7	20.7
Papua New Guinea	64.3	72.7	64.8	72.6	60.1	68.4	15.8
Australia	32.1	34.7	35.1	31.7	30.7	25.9	25.0
New Zealand	27.5	26.0	20.8	24.9	19.0	21.2	26.3
Chile	29.2	32.5	12.7	21.0	23.1	23.3	15.3
Mexico	5.7	5.3	5.9	5.9	7.5	4.8	4.0
Total APEC	11.1	10.5	10.3	10.7	10.6	10.5	9.9

Canadian Net Merchandise Trade Balances With APEC Economies

($,000,000 Cdn.)

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
United States	17,384.5	17,163.2	22,162.5	28,551.8	35,859.2	45,612.9	51,613.7
China	-141.6	-193.5	-684.0	-2,157.3	-2,024.0	-1,270.3	-2,112.2
of which Kong Kong	-396.0	-219.0	-376.1	-583.2	-287.6	76.0	-14.1
Malaysia	-131.1	-145.0	-365.3	-670.1	-944.1	-1,014.4	-1,069.8
Brunei Darussalam	0.5	2.2	0.5	-7.0	2.4	0.4	9.2
Singapore	-169.7	-229.8	-325.1	-475.9	-788.1	-825.4	-653.2
Indonesia	106.5	119.9	38.6	11.7	-72.1	21.1	275.1
Japan	-1,336.8	-3,143.8	-3,314.1	-2,290.7	-1,803.4	-195.9	578.3
Korea, South	-713.6	-248.0	-600.2	-496.0	-329.4	-506.5	43.1
Philippines	2.1	-21.3	-67.9	-193.6	-275.8	-172.2	-267.3
Chinese Taipei	-1,318.5	-1,163.0	-1,515.6	-1,621.2	-1,581.1	-1,105.7	-1,495.1
Thailand	88.0	-147.9	-249.5	-410.5	-498.6	-457.2	-528.7
Papua New Guinea	21.2	9.9	4.6	2.2	0.1	3.0	5.6
Australia	80.1	-18.0	-117.9	-359.0	-268.0	-131.1	-315.1
New Zealand	-60.1	-102.2	-99.8	-135.6	-182.9	-115.9	-100.8
Chile	12.5	-37.4	-56.9	-15.4	61.4	90.3	56.7
Mexico	-1,153.7	-2,055.2	-1,994.9	-2,911.8	-3,479.9	-4,240.1	-4,822.3
Total APEC	**12,670.3**	**9,790.0**	**12,815.0**	**16,821.5**	**23,676.0**	**35,693.0**	**41,217.3**

* Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation

B.C. Origin Exports To APEC* Economies
– Selected Commodities, 1996 –

($,000,000 Cdn.)

	China (inc. HK)	Japan	South Korea	Chinese Taipei	South East Asian members	Australia New Zeal. & P.N.G.	Chile	Mexico	USA	APEC Total
WOOD PRODUCTS	**30**	**2,886**	**48**	**59**	**7**	**94**	**3**	**0**	**5,849**	**8,976**
Lumber (softwood)	14	2,457	24	55	4	92	0	0	4,765	7,412
Cedar Shakes and Shingles	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	217	219
Plywood (softwood)	1	154	4	1	0	0	0	0	16	175
Selected Value Added Wood Products	12	151	4	1	2	1	0	0	404	576
other	3	124	16	3	0	0	2	0	446	594
PULP AND PAPER PRODUCTS	**399**	**757**	**239**	**140**	**228**	**103**	**3**	**10**	**2,552**	**4,431**
Pulp	289	570	171	54	123	42	0	9	1,104	2,362
Newsprint	64	156	7	72	55	38	1	0	809	1,201
Paper, Paperboard - exc. Newsprint	44	26	58	11	48	22	2	1	514	725
other	2	4	4	3	3	1	0	0	125	143
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD OTHER THAN FISH	**48**	**137**	**23**	**14**	**28**	**4**	**1**	**3**	**537**	**794**
Fruit and Nuts	0	3	0	3	17	0	0	0	75	99
Vegetables	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	70
other	48	116	23	10	11	3	1	3	409	624
FISH PRODUCTS	**62**	**353**	**3**	**6**	**2**	**17**	**0**	**0**	**313**	**756**
Whole Fish;Fresh, Ch'd, Froz. exc Salmon	4	31	2	0	0	0	0	0	57	94
Whole Salmon; Fresh, Chilled, Frozen	3	52	0	3	0	0	0	0	158	216
Salmon; Canned, Smoked, etc.	0	11	0	0	0	16	0	0	4	33
other	54	259	1	3	1	0	0	0	95	413
METALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS	**58**	**854**	**197**	**19**	**100**	**3**	**0**	**13**	**310**	**1,553**
Copper Ores and Concentrates	41	399	51	0	31	0	0	10	0	533
Molybdenum Ores and Concentrates	0	38	3	0	0	3	0	0	13	56
Unwrought Aluminum	4	346	137	2	3	0	0	0	34	526
Unwrought Zinc	13	13	0	15	48	0	0	0	181	271
other	0	57	6	2	17	0	0	2	81	166
ENERGY PRODUCTS	**1**	**1,127**	**288**	**66**	**0**	**0**	**22**	**11**	**805**	**2,320**
Natural Gas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	552	552
Coal	0	1,127	288	66	0	0	22	11	44	1,558
Electricity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	121	121
other	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	88	90
MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT	**86**	**95**	**37**	**15**	**123**	**58**	**20**	**4**	**1,565**	**2,004**
Motor Vehicles and Parts	5	36	1	0	8	35	4	0	318	407
Electrical/Electronic/Communications	47	20	8	9	47	2	5	0	339	476
other	34	39	28	7	68	21	11	3	908	1,120
PLASTICS AND ARTICLES OF PLASTIC	**7**	**3**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**134**	**149**
APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES	**0**	**7**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**142**	**149**
ALL OTHER COMMODITIES	**79**	**128**	**29**	**30**	**37**	**23**	**11**	**9**	**1,674**	**2,020**
GRAND TOTAL	***770***	***6,346***	***866***	***352***	***525***	***303***	***61***	***49***	***13,881***	***23,152***

*** Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation**

Infoline

October 17, 1997

fax transmission information service from **BC STATS**

also on the Internet at http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jul 1/97	% change on year ago
BC	3,933.3	2.0
Canada	30,286.6	1.1
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT		% change
(BC - at market prices - $ millions)	1996	on year ago
Current Dollars	103,631	1.7
Constant (1986) Dollars	74,001	1.0
TRADE ($ millions)		
Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) Aug	2,864	-1.5
Merchandise Exports (raw) Jul	2,189	-10.4
Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Jul	2,706	3.9
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		% change
(all items - 1986=100)	Aug '97	on year ago
BC	139.9	1.1
Canada	138.2	1.8
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change
(seasonally adjusted)	Sep '97	on year ago
Labour Force - BC	2,032	2.4
Employed - BC	1,851	2.9
Unemployed - BC	181	-2.2
		Sep '96
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	8.9	9.3
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	9.0	10.0
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Oct 15/97	Oct 16/96
Prime Business Rate	5.25	5.50
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	5.65	5.60
- 5 year	6.70	7.40
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Oct 15/97	Oct 16/96
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.3862	1.3554
US $ *(reciprocal of above rate)*	0.7214	0.7378
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS		% change
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Jul '97	on year ago
BC	621.13	0.5
Canada	605.00	2.6

SOURCES:
Gross Domestic Product: Statistics Canada, revised by BC STATS
Population, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Earnings: Statistics Canada
Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

Released this week by BC STATS
- Labour Force Statistics, September 1997
- Immigration Highlights, First Half of 1997

Next week
- Exports, July 1997

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